

## **STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel Claims 17-24 and 26-31 without prejudice or disclaimer, not to overcome the cited art, but rather to narrow the claim issues so as to put the remaining Claims in a *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Please find the current status of the claims, as of the filing of this amendment paper, as follows:

1. (Previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a mold having at least one side wall defining an interior portion, said mold having an opening for injecting material into said interior portion;

a member in sealable connection with said interior portion for adjustably controlling the density of the material; and

said member further comprising;

a piston capable of sliding at variable speed along said interior portion for controlling the density of the material; and

a combination of at least one gear and at least one brake, wherein said combination engages said piston for adjustably controlling the density of the material.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said controlling member comprises a backpressure piston.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a valve positioned upstream from said mold, said valve further actuating to allow flow when said mold is empty or block flow when said mold is full.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, further having said mold with at least one end confining said interior portion, wherein said end further comprises a rod, slidingly connected therefrom.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said rod is pushed outwardly as the mold fills, whereby the outward end position of said rod is detected by a sensor as said mold is filled or substantially filled, said sensor further actuating said valve.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a means to shut off the flow of the injected material when said mold is filled or substantially filled and a means to divert the material to another mold that is not filled.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said means comprises a diverter valve.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein said means further comprises a first diverter station and a second diverter station.

13-14 (Canceled)

15 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:  
a means to shut off the flow of the injected material when said mold is filled or  
substantially filled.

16-31. (Canceled)